

Two School Districts to Receive Grant Money

Thanks, in part to the State of Utah Fuel Network, the Jordan and Alpine School Districts were awarded a combined total of \$200,000 of the Federal Department of Energy Grant monies which have been earmarked for use by Alternative Fuel programs. In a presentation held at the Salt Lake City and County Building on Friday, June 1, 2000, Utah's Senator Orrin Hatch handed-out six checks to local business' and government programs, all of which belong to the Salt Lake chapter of the Clean Cities Coalition. Of the 80 Coalitions nationwide, the Salt Lake Clean Cities Coalition received the second largest amount of the federal grant funds. The money will be used to increase the use of Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFVs) along the Wasatch Front.



Steve Saltzgiver, Director DFO; Sen. Orrin Hatch; Jeff Done, Fuel Network Manager; Margaret Chambers, DFO Deputy Director

Both districts plan to purchase more Compressed Natural Gas CNG school busses. Alpine District is currently operating one of the CNG busses and plan to purchase three more busses with the grant money. The Jordan School District will be adding seven CNG busses to their fleet bring the total number of AFV busses to 25.

The districts are able to operate AFVs because both districts were equipped with rapid-fill CNG fueling sites after joining the State of Utah Fuel Network. The site represents two of the eight CNG sites managed by the Fuel Network, six rapid-fill and two slow-fill. Members of the Fuel Network also have access to more than 25 privately owned CNG fueling sites throughout the State of Utah.

The State of Utah Fuel Network has been building an Alternative Fuel infrastructure throughout the State for more than five years. In addition to the CNG sites, all of the State owned fueling sites have been equipped to dispense E85 fuel type when it becomes available. The Fuel Network took part in getting the \$75,000 grant received by the Clean Cities Coalition and the U.S. Postal Service to be used for the E85 infrastructure development program. After obtaining the number of E85 equipped vehicles



Jeff Done explains the Network program to Senator Orrin Hatch.

in the area, Fuel Network Manager; Jeff Done was able to convince the private sector to offer E85. The grant money will be used to help area fueling stations purchase the equipment needed to offer this fuel type.

The Division of Fleet Operations (DFO) is also assisting in the alternative fuel effort by working with higher education to purchase the federally mandated amount of AFVs, for the State's Fleet. DFO Director, Steve Saltzgiver believes that if a demand for alternative fuels is created the private sector will meet that demand.

"The state is very supportive of the AFV programs and we are doing everything in our power to provide quality Alternative Fuel Vehicles and a supportive infrastructure to fuel them. The state has been one of the foremost leaders in the Salt Lake valley in promoting clean, safe, alternative fuel choices. This past year the division of Fleet Operations implemented a twenty-cent per gallon rebate to entice customers to consider using CNG. This program is a win-win for everyone and the benefits will help us all breathe a little better," Saltzgiver said.



Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson and Utah Senator Orrin Hatch take a State owned AFV for a test drive.

Senator Hatch also announced that his is currently drafting legislation that would create incentives, such as tax credits for purchasing AFVs and building fueling site that accommodate alternative fuel types. He hopes to make an official announcement of the legislation within the month.

"Like the Clean Cities Program, my legislation would increase the use of Alternative Fuel Vehicles, cheaply, voluntarily and without federal mandates," Hatch said.

Alison Taylor, State of Utah Fleet Services